



The Anti-War Liberal | Jan Schakowsky

4 Part *Washington Post* Series on Iraq
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July 08, July 15 and July 22, 2007

Part I - Sunday, July 8, 2007

Before the Oct. 10, 2002, House vote to authorize the war, with the Democratic

Three years later, Schakowsky helped found the Out of Iraq Caucus, which ha

Representing a liberal North Side district in Chicago, Schakowsky would face

"If we could pass it, I would stop this war today," she said. "But there aren't the

Angering war opponents, Schakowsky supported the first Iraq spending bill, la

"As far as the American people are concerned, they're done; they are done with this war."

Toughest Encounter With Constituents: Before she announced her support for the war.

Iraq-Related Claim to Fame: The stacks and stacks of e-mails opposing the war.

Visits to Iraq: She is making her first trip in August.

Outlook: "There is decreasingly any way to defend this war and keeping our troops out of Iraq."

Most Persuasive Argument From War Supporters: "If you're not for the money, you're not for the war."

Part II - Sunday, July 15, 2007

On Thursday morning, members of the House Democratic whip team, including Rep. Jan Schakowsky, met with constituents in the House.

One sign that the number wouldn't be high: Rep. Lincoln Davis (Tenn.), an influential member of the House, said he didn't see any reason to

As the team moved down the list, the whips quickly determined that Democrat

Schakowsky was a longtime opponent of the war who, after she joined the Ho

She had been amazed to hear Sen. Pete V. Domenici, a Republican from Nev

"It's just over," she thought to herself as she listened to the senator on the rad

On Monday morning, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) and her Democrati

She would have preferred even tougher terms. The latest House Iraq bill, whic

"Every single person would have written a slightly different bill," Armed Service

Part III - Sunday, July 22, 2007

Rep. Jan Schakowsky knows a few things about protests. In 1989, she headed

So when Senate Republicans decided to block a Democratic measure to with

"All they're asking, our Senate Democrats, is that they get an up or down vote

There was no jumping on cars last week, but Schakowsky, an Illinois Democra

"Has everyone signed the letter to the president?" called out Rep. Maxine Wat

At the rally, she stood in the front row next to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D

"Do you know that 18-year-olds who are being recruited today, some of them v

The Republican filibuster won out the next day. But, as Schakowsky beat a ret

Part III - Sunday, August 5, 2007

Congress's August break will find Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) in Iraq equippe

"I think we're now being prepped for kind of a rosy report" in September on the

If, as Gen. David H. Petraeus has said, more time could allow the troop increa

"One of the problems . . . I want to inquire more about that, is that the people v

"Depending on, again, where we're able to go, I can learn more about the tens

It's a big agenda for a week-long trip that includes a stint in Afghanistan. For s

Part IV - Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Rep. Jan Schakowsky settled into the ornate Cannon Caucus Room to listen t

"Did I hear him correctly? I thought I heard Gen. Petraeus say that because of

"He is presenting the same cherry-picked numbers that we've all heard before

"Bottom line? He is saying in effect, 'Stay the course.' "

Next came Crocker's opening remarks -- and another furious e-mail from Schakowsky.

"Crocker had the chutzpah to begin by comparing Iraq and the chaos and violence in that country to the struggles of America to establish democracy."

Hours later, Schakowsky was still fuming. Ducking into a nearby committee room,

Crocker's comparison of Iraq's and America's struggles to establish democracy.

The testimony was as she predicted, she said, only worse. "Their message is, 'We are going to stay the course.'"